



**Montana
Office of Public Instruction**
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TO: System Test Coordinators
FROM: Judy Snow, State Assessment Director
RE: English Language Proficiency Assessment (WIDA ACCESS for ELLS)

This packet of materials is being sent to all System Test Coordinators, even those of you who currently have no Limited English Proficient (LEP) students enrolled.

Enclosed with this memo are two documents:

1. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about WIDA ACCESS for ELLS.
2. A memo from the World-Class Instruction Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium which provide two ELP assessments:
 - W-APT, a screening tool for newly enrolled students with limited English proficiency (LEP) to be administered at the time of enrollment.
 - *ACCESS for ELLs*, an annual assessment for all students identified as LEP. The 2011-12 testing window for *ACCESS for ELLs* is planned for December 3, 2012 through January 29, 2013.

WIDA provides resources and training for administration of both the W-APT and *ACCESS for ELLs* on the secure WIDA web site referenced in the enclosed memo.

- An account to access the WIDA website and materials is required for each teacher who will administer the screener (W-APT) and/or the annual assessment (*ACCESS for ELLs*). Below are some important steps.
 - Test Coordinators create accounts for each person (test administrator =TA) who will administer one or both WIDA assessments.
 - To create those accounts, Test Coordinators will log in to the secure site and choose “ACCESS for ELLs Training Course Account Creator” and follow the steps to create an account for each test administrator in your system.
 - Training courses on the WIDA website are required for all teachers who will administer the assessments. The courses include quizzes. A score of 80% or higher indicates understanding of the processes.
 - The online training takes approximately two to four hours, depending on which areas you must complete and may be completed in one sitting, or in as many sessions as necessary, ideally within one to two weeks of when you will be administering the test.

It is recommended the training for the W-APT be a first priority as it is the screener to determine if a student is LEP.

If you need guidance about which students will need to take the W-APT, please contact the OPI Assessment Office, 406-444-3511 or 406-444-0748

More information about WIDA is at the following sites:

OPI Assessment ELP page: http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1_10

WIDA web site: <http://www.wida.us/>

JUMP, OPI Online Assessment Newsletter, May and August 2011 and August 2012:

http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1_4